

400 NEWSMEN AIDED C.I.A. MAGAZINE SAYS

Rolling Stone Reports Journalists Shared Facts With Agency Over Last 25 Years

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Rolling Stone magazine will report in the issue now going to press that some 400 American journalists, including correspondents for The New York Times, CBS News and a dozen other organizations, have secretly shared information with and in some cases provided operational assistance to the Central Intelligence Agency over the last 25 years.

The article, by Carl Bernstein, the former reporter of The Washington Post, names only a few of the journalists alleged by unidentified C.I.A. officials to have maintained such relationships. Among them are C. L. Sulzberger, foreign affairs columnist for The Times, and Joseph Alsop and his brother, the late Stewart Alsop, the columnists.

Mr. Bernstein also wrote that between 1950 and 1966, The Times, according to unnamed officials of the intelligence agency, allowed "about 10 C.I.A. employees" to pose as clerks or part-time correspondents in some of its offices abroad. None of those employees were identified.

Those "cover" arrangements, the article said, were "part of a general Times policy" set in the early 1950's by Arthur Hays Sulzberger, then the newspaper's publisher, "to provide assistance to the intelligence agency whenever possible." Mr. Sulzberger died in 1968.

Much of the information in the article about purported relationships between reporters and the agency—one of the topics examined last year by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities—has been reported previously by The Times and other publications.

A Reporters' Comment

Among the allegations previously made public was one by Wayne Phillips, a former Times reporter, that he was asked by the C.I.A. in 1952 about entering into such a dual arrangement in the event that he became the newspaper's correspondent in Moscow.

When Mr. Phillips's allegation appeared last year, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the publisher of The Times, said that he had "never heard of" The Times being approached, either in my capacity as publisher or as the son of the last Mr. Sulzberger."

A spokesman for The Times said yesterday that the newspaper "has absolutely no information to add" to the statement made last year by Mr. Sulzberger, who is traveling in China.

The C.I.A. has repeatedly declined to make public the names of the journalists with whom it traded information or whom it used as agents in the field on the ground that they are "intelligence sources" whose identities must be protected by law.

Last year, The Times filed with the agency a formal request, under the Freedom of Information Act, for the names of any of its employees who had worked for the agency in any capacity during their careers with The Times, but that request was rejected.

C. L. Sulzberger, the columnist, is vacationing in Europe and could not be reached for comment on the Rolling Stone's allegations about his relationships with the intelligence agency. Joseph Alsop, reached at his home in Washington, said that he would not comment on the article except to say that portions of Mr. Bernstein's account were "inaccurate."

According to the Rolling Stone article, the files compiled by the C.I.A. on its relationships with American journalists, summaries of which were made available to the Senate intelligence committee last year, "contain reports of specific tasks" undertaken on the agency's behalf by C. L. Sulzberger and the Alsop brothers.

Mr. Sulzberger was quoted in the article as having said that although he "had a good many friends" within the intelligence agency, his relationship with the agency was "totally informal" and that, although "they can ask me questions" he had never taken an assignment from one of those guys.

The article contains an assertion, attributed to "a senior C.I.A. official," that C. L. Sulzberger had been asked by the agency to sign an agreement to keep confidential whatever classified information it might supply to him.

Mr. Sulzberger, the article said, had recalled having once been asked to sign such an agreement but could not remember "with certainty" whether he had done so.

He was quoted as saying, however, that his uncle, Arthur Hays Sulzberger, had signed such a pledge.

According to Rolling Stone, C. L. Sulzberger denied in a telephone interview an allegation by another intelligence agency officer, also unidentified, that the agency had once provided him with a background paper, and that the columnist then "gave it to the printers and put his name on it."